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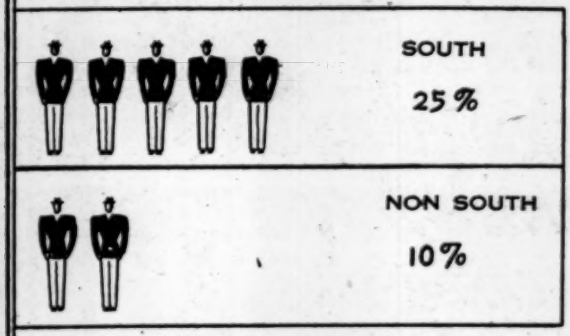
Education for Democracy Issue

The Southern PATRIOT

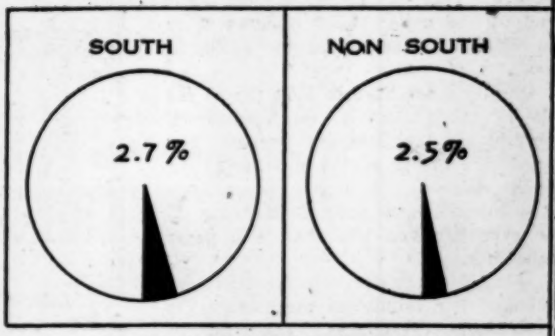
Volume 4 Nashville, Tennessee, January, 1946 No. 1

The South has Great Undeveloped Human Resources—



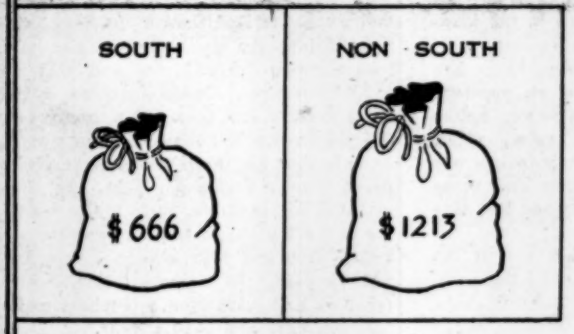
PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION WITH LESS THAN FIFTH GRADE EDUCATION . . . 1940

—Not for lack of effort

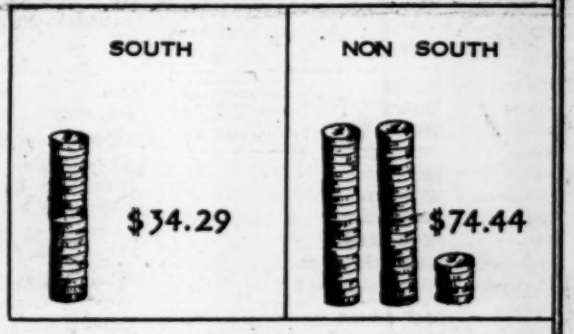


PERCENTAGE OF STATE INCOME SPENT FOR EDUCATION 1939-1940

But—For Lack of Money

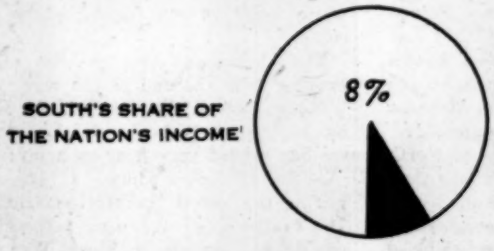


PER CAPITA INCOME 1943

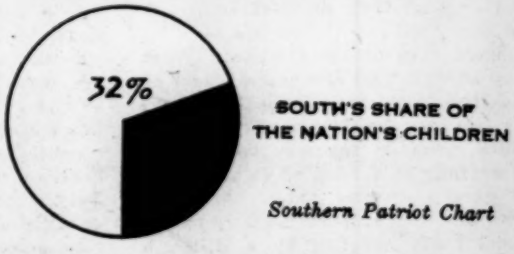


MONEY SPENT PER PUPIL 1939-1940

Tax The Money Where The Money is—



—To Educate The Children Where The Children are



Southern Patriot Chart

The South Needs Federal Aid To Education!

Equal Opportunity: The American Myth

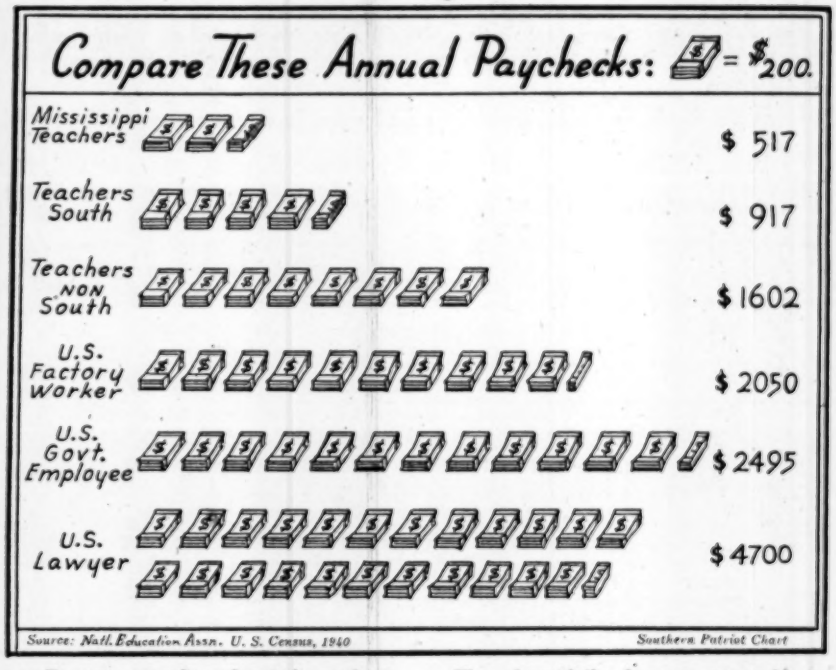
Equal educational opportunity—a basic ideal of American democracy—is a myth in our country today.

Some American children have sixty times the opportunity of others. The children with the least chance are those born and educated in the South. 38,000 children—almost all Southern— in 1939-40 were in classrooms where less than $100 per year was spent. At the other end of the scale, 19,000 children were in classrooms supported by $6,000 a year.

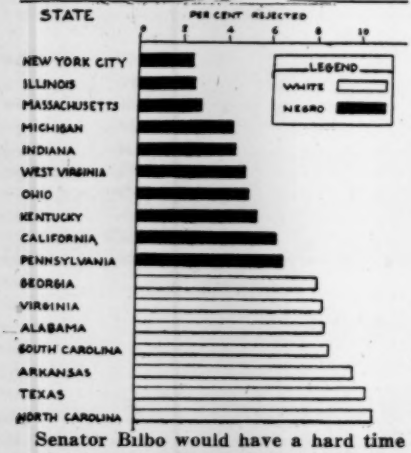
One does not have to look far to see the ravaging effects of this educational poverty on the Southern people. The whole life of our region and our nation is harmed:

—One of every four Southerners 25 or over has had less than five years schooling.

—13.8% of the Southern draftees were rejected for failure to meet minimum "intelligence standards," compared to almost negligible percentages in most of the non-Southern states; 2% in California; 1.3% in Ohio; 0.3% in Illinois.



Draft Rejections—Below Army "Minimum" Intelligence Standards



Senator Bilbo would have a hard time explaining the facts pictured in this chart. What they show, of course, is not that Northern Negroes are more intelligent than Southern whites. What they show is that the general level of education in the low-income South is so low that even the children of the favored white group do not have as good an opportunity to develop as do all groups in more prosperous states. And they show that what counts is not the mythical racial traits imagined by a Hitler, a Hirohito or a Bilbo, but the opportunity a community gives its children through education.

—Because poorly educated workers have lower earning power, our living standards are pulled down. Statistics show that the ten leading states in educational expenditures stand in the identical order in per capita income!

—Statistics quoted by Rep. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee show an amazing correlation between average public school expenditures and retail sales. Those states which are high in one are invariably high in the other and those which are low in education are low also in retail sales.

Undoubtedly, the school is one of the most important institutions in the community, second only to the home in shaping the life of our future citizens. What are the conditions in the typical Southern school?

—In Georgia, the State Agricultural and Industrial Board reported to the General Assembly that 40% of the white schools and 95% of the Negro schools were unfit for use.

—In Alabama, the Alabama Educational Association reports that 8,174 new classrooms and 600 new school busses are urgently needed. California spends 30 times more per child than Alabama for school buildings and equipment.

—Of the 4402 public schools of North Carolina, more than 50% have less than five teachers—that is, not even one teacher per grade. There are 180 one-teacher elementary schools for white children and 610 for Negro children.

And there are not enough teachers to go around, even spread so thinly!

The shamefully low wages paid to teachers in general and Southern teachers in particular began to wreak havoc with the Southern school system when war work offered better paying jobs. 280,000 teachers left their pitifully paid jobs between Pearl Harbor and 1943.

Little wonder. 28,000 teachers in the U. S. receive less than $50 a month and 197,000 receive less than $100 per month. In only four Southern states do teachers average over $1,000 per year. In Mississippi, for example, 3,078 white teachers and 6,296 Negro teachers receive between $200 and $599 a year—averaging $325 a year. In Alabama, 5,546 white teachers and 2,196 Negro teachers make between $240 and $560 a year.

As a result of the wholesale desertion of teachers to jobs which would afford a living during wartime, teaching standards have dropped disastrously. Schools have turned to unqualified teachers. The Georgia State Industrial and Agricultural Board says 53.4% of the state's white teachers are inadequately educated.

The shortage shows no sign of improving with the end of the war.

Money "saved" by the Southern states by paying low salaries to their teachers has proved very poor economy:

—The 12 states which, in 1920, were paying the lowest teachers' salaries had 110 draftees per thousand rejected for educational reasons in World War II.

—The 12 states paying highest teachers' salaries in 1920 had only 23 men per thousand rejected.

The Black and White of It

Just as the Southern school child has less chance to develop his natural talents and abilities than the child born outside the South, the Southern Negro child has even less opportunity—as the chart to the right indicates.

Of the 1,700,000 U. S. children attending classrooms supported by less than $600 per year, 60% were Negroes from the Southern states, 23% were whites from the same states, and 8% were from the Northern and Western states.

Elementary justice demands a fair opportunity for the Negro child, yet in Mississippi the state appropriates $30 for the education of each white child and only $3 for the education of the Negro child.

Booker T. Washington once aptly said: "It is too great a compliment to the Negro to suppose he can learn ten times as easily as his white neighbor."

In Georgia the figures are little better: $35.42 is appropriated per white child, $6.38 per Negro child. In Virginia the counties receive state money for education on a population basis, but spend far more per head on white than on colored children.

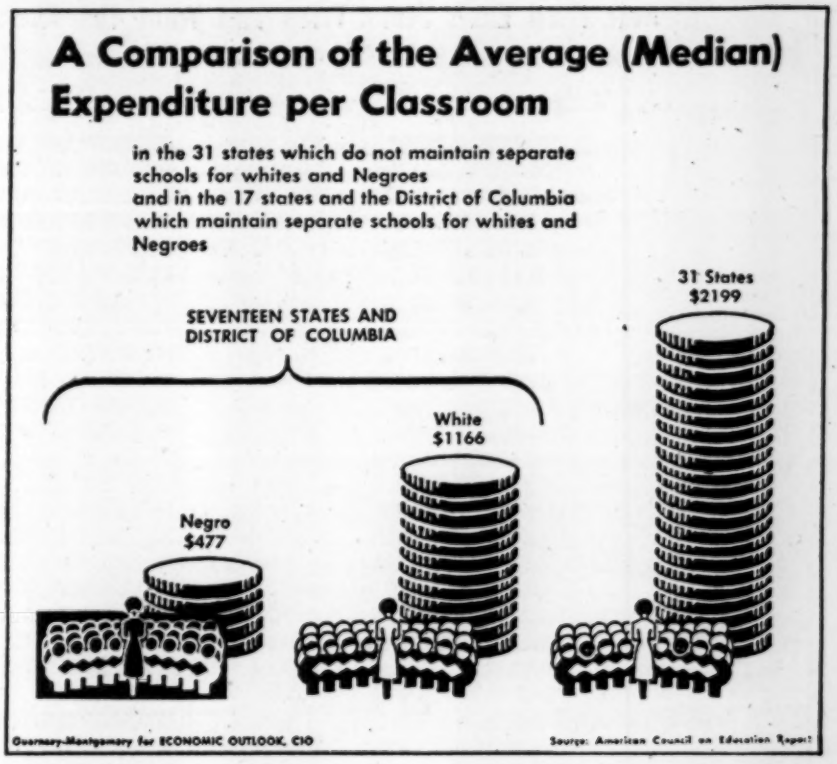
The schools in Fairfax County, Virginia, provide a startling and tragic example. In Fairfax County there are 8,500 school children, 11% colored, 89% white. The value of the Negro schools in 1940 was $86,700 and of the white schools $1,665,000. There were 11 Negro schools, 10 of them wooden, one brick, and 27 white schools, 23 of them brick or stone.

None of the colored schools have running water. All have outside toilets. Pupils and teachers do all the janitorial work, make fires, clean, and haul water. Three schools have no water on the premises. All the white schools have running water, inside toilets, central heating and janitor service.

In the city of Charleston, S. C., there is no accredited Negro high school.

Conditions in the Negro schools of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, were brought to light last year by the Southern Labor Review in Baton Rouge. According to the labor paper, the heating facilities make it impossible for the children to attend in cold weather; the buildings need major repairs; cracked and falling plaster, lack of sanitation, over-crowded classrooms and broken stair rails are but a few of the health hazards.

In Williamson County, Tennessee, the county authorities refused to provide a school bus for Negro children to go to high school. The Negro families were so anxious for their children to continue their education they chipped in to raise $2,760 to buy a bus for the children.


A Comparison of the Average (Median) Expenditure per Classroom
in the 31 states which do not maintain separate schools for whites and Negroes and in the 17 states and the District of Columbia which maintain separate schools for whites and Negroes
SEVENTEEN STATES AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
31 States $2199
White $1166
Negro $477
Overmyer-Montgomery for ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, CIO
Source: American Council on Education Report

Another reflection of the extremely low appropriations made for Negro schools is the extremely large percentage of one, two and three-teacher schools. In 1939-40, of the Negro elementary schools in eight Southern states and the District of Columbia, 54% were one-teacher schools.

In most of the South there is also a large differential in salaries between Negro and white teachers of equal education experience and responsibility. In South Carolina, white teachers averaged $943 per year; Negro teachers, $373. In this field, however, great progress is being made. Discrimination in teacher salaries for reasons of race has been declared unconstitutional and cases instituted in Norfolk, Va., Newport News, Va., Birmingham, Ala., Little Rock, Ark., and other cities have forced a more equitable salary adjustment.

In 1944-45, salaries approached equality in New Orleans, Louisville, Atlanta, Miami, San Antonio, Nashville, Knoxville and Norfolk. But they were still discriminatory in Houston, Richmond, Dallas, Fort Worth and Birmingham, as well as in most of the rural South.

Typical is a case cited in Little Rock where a Negro teacher with 32 years experience and an A.B. degree was making $884 a year, while a white teacher with 30 years experience and a B.S. was earning $1634.

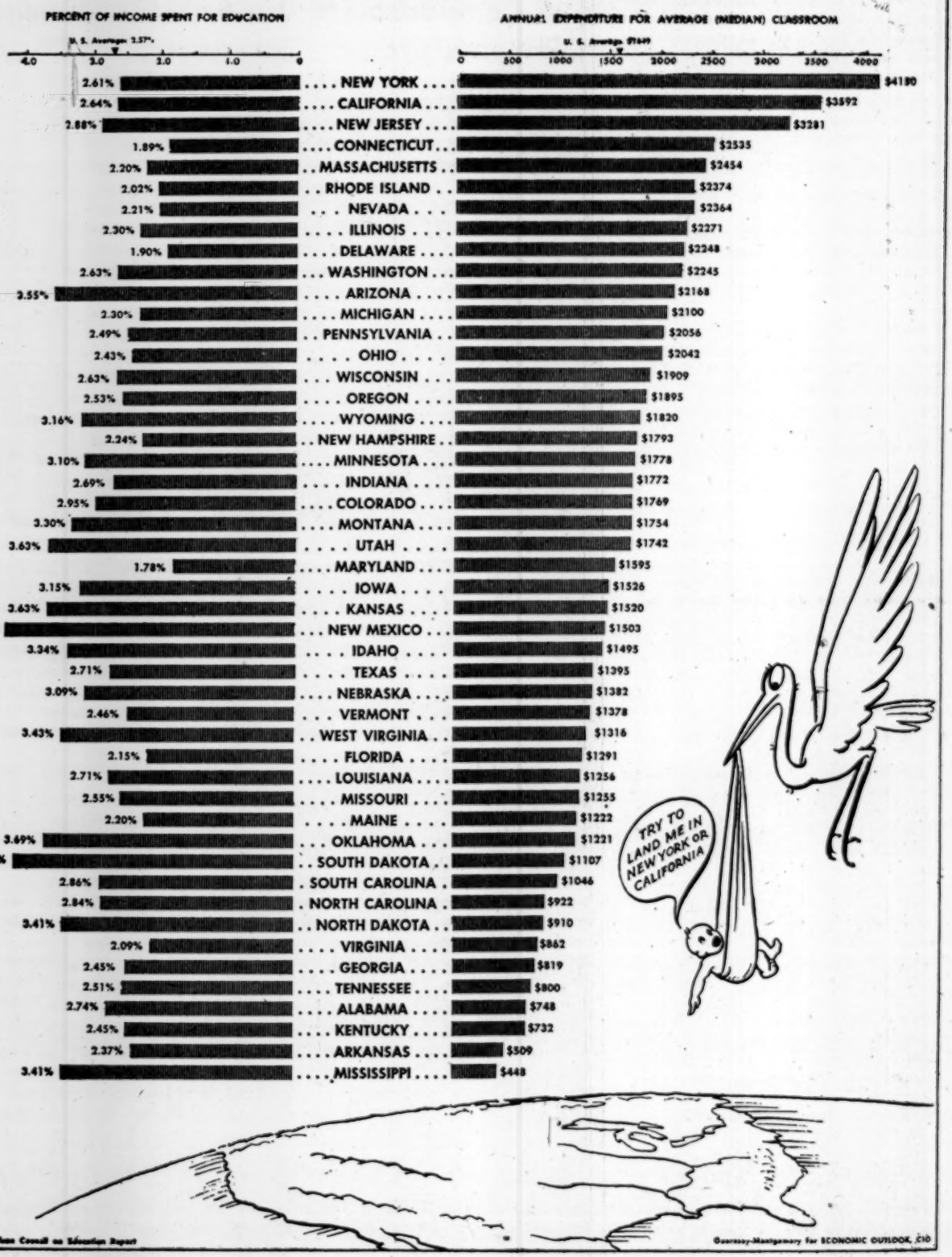
Much credit goes to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for initiating and fighting these cases. The reaction of the Southern press to this progress has been mixed. When the court ordered equalization of salaries in Columbia, S. C., the Columbia Record called the decision "inevitable and expected," while the Charleston News and Courier proposed that the state abolish all public education above the 5th grade.

In 1939-40, the average salary of the white teacher in the 17 Southern and border states was $1046, compared to the Negro teacher's $601. This was 74% higher for the white teacher, registering considerable progress over the ten years since 1931-32, however, when the white teacher made 103% more than the Negro teacher.

The South is making only slow and painful progress along the path outlined by Governor Charles Brantley Aycock of North Carolina 40 years ago. Governor Aycock sold his people on the principle of universal education and equal opportunity for all children: **"Equal; that is the word! On that word I plant myself and my party—the equal right of every child born on earth to burgeon out all there is within him."**

EXPENDITURE FOR SCHOOLS IN THE U. S., 1939-40

How Hard Each State Tries and What the Average Classroom Gets


PERCENT OF INCOME SPENT FOR EDUCATION
U. S. Average 2.57%
4.0
3.0
2.0
1.0
0
ANNUAL EXPENDITURE FOR AVERAGE (MEDIAN) CLASSROOM
U. S. Average $1649
0
500
1000
1500
2000
2500
3000
3500
4000
2.61% .... NEW YORK $4180
2.64% .... CALIFORNIA $3592
2.88% .... NEW JERSEY $3281
1.89% .... CONNECTICUT $2535
2.20% .. MASSACHUSETTS .. $2454
2.02% .. RHODE ISLAND .. $2374
2.21% ... NEVADA ... $2364
2.30% .... ILLINOIS $2271
1.90% .... DELAWARE $2248
2.63% ... WASHINGTON ... $2245
3.55% .... ARIZONA $2168
2.30% .... MICHIGAN $2100
2.49% .. PENNSYLVANIA .. $2056
2.43% .... OHIO $2042
2.63% ... WISCONSIN ... $1909
2.53% .... OREGON $1895
3.16% .... WYOMING $1820
2.24% .. NEW HAMPSHIRE .. $1793
3.10% .... MINNESOTA $1778
2.69% .... INDIANA $1772
2.95% .... COLORADO $1769
3.30% .... MONTANA $1754
3.63% .... UTAH $1742
1.78% .... MARYLAND $1595
3.15% .... IOWA $1526
3.63% .... KANSAS $1520
4.27% ... NEW MEXICO ... $1503
3.34% .... IDAHO $1495
2.71% .... TEXAS $1395
3.09% .... NEBRASKA $1382
2.46% ... VERMONT ... $1378
3.43% .. WEST VIRGINIA .. $1316
2.15% .... FLORIDA $1291
2.71% .... LOUISIANA $1256
2.55% .... MISSOURI $1255
2.20% .... MAINE $1222
3.69% ... OKLAHOMA ... $1221
4.14% .. SOUTH DAKOTA .. $1107
2.86% . SOUTH CAROLINA . $1046
2.84% . NORTH CAROLINA . $922
3.41% .. NORTH DAKOTA .. $910
2.09% .... VIRGINIA $862
2.45% .... GEORGIA $819
2.51% .... TENNESSEE $800
2.74% .... ALABAMA $748
2.45% .... KENTUCKY $732
2.37% .... ARKANSAS $509
3.41% .... MISSISSIPPI $448
TRY TO LAND ME IN NEW YORK OR CALIFORNIA

Source: American Council on Education Report

Courtesy-Montgomery for ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, CIO

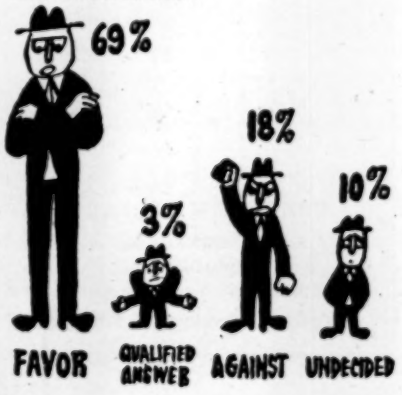
The Answer: Federal Aid to Education

Only with financial assistance from the United States government can the Southern states substantially improve their public school systems, and give Southern children an equal chance.

The chart on the opposite page points out the key fact in the educational picture—that the poor schools in the South are due not to lack of effort, but lack of money. The left-hand bars indicate the percentage of the total state income spent for education. (The figures are based on the total income of the entire state, not the state government's revenue.) It can be seen at a glance that the Southern states, though at the bottom in terms of actual school expenditures, devote an even larger part of their incomes to education than the Northern states. If some Southern states spent their entire general fund on public schools alone, they would still be below the national average on expenditure per child.

The South, receiving only 8% of the nation's income, must educate 32% of the nation's children. The North has three times as much property per person to support their schools. But the South has more than moral justification in seeking federal aid for its schools. Much of the wealth of the richer states has been drawn from the poorer states. All Southern states are primarily agricultural and send millions of dollars per year into other states for purchase of automobiles, farm machinery, clothing and other manufactured goods. Where Southern manufacturing establishments do exist, much of their wealth is drained off by absentee ownership. But the South cannot tax that wealth. Only the federal government can return those lost dollars to the South.

"WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOR OF OR BE AGAINST HAVING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TURN OVER A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MONEY TO THE STATES EVERY YEAR FOR THEIR SCHOOLS?"



The principle of federal aid is well illustrated in the system now used to support the schools in North Carolina. North Carolina has 100 counties. A majority did not have the taxable property to maintain even reasonably good schools. So the state came to the rescue and set up a State Equalization Fund, whereby the rich counties help the poor counties. Today in North Carolina, every child, white and black, has a nine-month school term, and teachers are paid the same in poor counties as in rich.

What Federal Aid Would Mean

Federal aid would make it possible for the states to:

—keep the schools open longer.

—raise salaries where they are substandard, and increase the salaries of all teachers to meet the increased cost of living. This would bring more and better teachers into our school systems.

—hire more teachers, reducing the overcrowded classes, cutting down on the sadly inadequate one and two-teacher schools.

—provide schools for the millions of youth now not attending school at all. In 1945, seven million children in our nation between the ages of 5 and 17 were not in schools.

—make possible the consolidation of small schools, enabling the children to have better libraries, facilities, and equipment, and saving money.

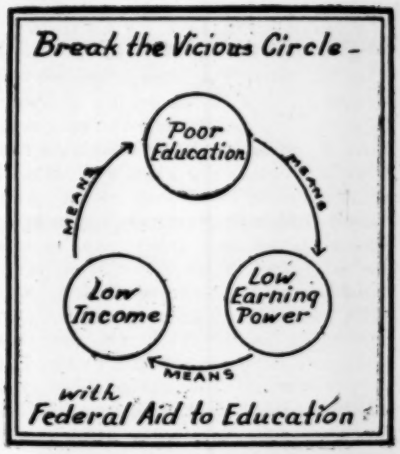
Two Bills

Two bills are now before Congress providing federal aid to education. Both bills provide for money to be appropriated to the states, with control of education—of instruction, personnel, curriculum, etc.—left in the hands of the states. The money would be distributed on a mathematical basis, according to population. **Both bills protect the rights of minority groups, providing for a fair and equitable apportionment of the funds provided for the Act, in the same proportion as the racial group bears to the total population of the state.**

S-181, introduced by Senator Lister Hill of Alabama and Senator Elbert Thomas of Utah, administers the funds —300 million dollars—directly to the State Departments of Education, and provides for funds only for public schools.

S-717, introduced by Senator Mead of New York and Aiken of Vermont, sets up a Federal agency to administer the funds—400 million dollars—through the states, and provides for distribution of the money to public and non-public schools. S-717 also provides an appropriation to help needy students remain in school.

American public opinion is solidly behind this legislation. Illustration at left shows the results of a survey made by the National Opinion Research Center. Southern support was even stronger. 89% of the Southern people approved federal aid, with only 11% dissenting.



That is not surprising. The Southern people are well aware that the goal of equal educational opportunity can never be attained without federal aid. They expect their Congressmen and Senators to do their duty to their people, in fighting for this legislation.

To make sure, you'd better write your representative today—so your children will get an equal break, to end illiteracy and backwardness, to make the South a more prosperous and democratic place to live.

A Call

To all Members of the

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

for Human Welfare

There will be a general Southwide membership meeting Saturday, January 26 at 10 A.M., Washington Duke Hotel, Durham, N. C., for the purpose of adopting new bylaws. All members are cordially invited to attend this important meeting.

For further information write:

Southern Conference for Human Welfare
212½ Union Street
Nashville 1, Tennessee

TRENDS

Legends, Passed by Censor

A leader of the fascist-like "Christian American" movement censors the textbooks used in the schools of Texas. This fact came out when the publishing firm of Noble and Noble announced that their textbook, "Our Good Neighbors in Soviet Russia", had had to be withdrawn, although previously approved by the state textbook commission, because Lewis Valentine Ulrey "objected to its content". Ulrey's connections with "Christian American", an organization preaching hatred of Negro, Jew and foreign-born, were exposed in the Dec. 1944 issue of the SOUTHERN PATRIOT and later in an article by Walter Davenport in Colliers. Ulrey is secretary to Maco Stewart, a member of the school board. The book which replaced "Our Good Neighbors in Soviet Russia" is called "Legends of the United Nations".

Young and Democratic

Texas reactionaries, who failed in 1944 to capture the state machinery of the Democratic Party for an alliance with the Republicans against Roosevelt, lost again at the state convention of Young Democratic Clubs. The address of Jack Carter, Fort Worth attorney elected as temporary chairman by the progressive majority, called for abolishing the poll tax, lowering the voting age to 18, and urged that the organization support liberal candidates. The convention was addressed by Dr. Homer P. Rainey, whose removal as president of the University of Texas because of his liberal views caused a storm of protest throughout the South a year ago.

See Here, Private Enterprise

A Southern veteran appeared before the leaders of big business reaction last month and told them to their faces what he thought of them. Sergeant Marion Hargrove, a North Carolina newspaperman whose account of his experiences as a draftee became a wartime best seller, appeared as a guest speaker at the National Association of Manufacturers annual meeting in New York. Said Hargrove, just out of the Army, to the big mules: "I can't remember off hand a single contribution you have made or a constructive thing you have ever done." Blistering the industrialists for their opposition to progressive legislation, Hargrove said: "As far as I can see, industry has its own brand of unemployment compensation and its own brand of minimum wages, practically handed to it by the government."

Students Stand Pat

The annual Student Legislative Assembly of North Carolina, meeting in Raleigh in December, voted to invite delegates from Negro colleges in the state to take part in their 1946 session. The proposal carried by a vote of 110 to 48. After adjournment, the body was reconvened to hear Secretary of State Thad Eure oppose the action taken as "headlong and headstrong." The meeting thanked Eure for his address, but did not change its stand. In ensuing weeks the S.L.A. came in for the usual denunciations from promoters of prejudice, but Dr. Frank P. Graham, President of the University of North Carolina, defended the right of the students to make their own decision. Some 20 colleges and universities of the state were represented at the Raleigh meeting.

Unsentimental Journey

Last month's PATRIOT contained exposes of two budding Southern fascist movements. One was Fight for Free Enterprise, Inc., a business-sponsored group in San Antonio, which has a neat blueprint drawn up for the organization of German-style storm troopers in America. The other was the activities of Arthur W. Terminiello of Birmingham, a former Catholic priest unfrocked by his church for his propaganda against the nation's unity, who is trying to build an anti-Semitic movement in imitation of Father Coughlin. While the issue was still on the press, news reached us that Gerald L. K. Smith was making a tour of the South in an attempt to unite what he calls "nationalist" groups. One of his stops was in San Antonio to confer with persons unnamed. Another was in New Orleans, where he held a meeting with Terminiello.

Luckies Struck

A blow against the Southern wage differential is being struck by the employes of the American Tobacco Company. Workers in the company's three plants, two of which are in the North and one in the South, are on strike demanding a contract which would cover the three plants alike. Strikers at the Charleston plant, two-thirds of whom made less than $32 a week before the strike and who have been out for more than two months, are developing serious welfare problems. They are appealing for financial contributions to be sent to Local 15, FTA—CIO, 30 Mary St., Charleston 11, S. C. The union has also placed American Tobacco Company products on the unfair list. The company manufactures Lucky Strike and Pall Mall cigarettes, Half and Half tobacco and Roi Tan and Corona cigars.

Exodus

Unless something is done to improve living conditions inside the city, Nashville, Tennessee, will disperse itself within another decade, according to Charles Hawkins, chief engineer of the city and county planning commission. Hawkins points out that all citizens who can afford to are moving out of the city into nearby suburbs, leaving the main business section surrounded by a belt of blighted, run-down areas. He recommends the replacement of slums by modern housing projects.

Can Do

Delegates from South Carolina locals of the Textile Workers Union of America, CIO, met in conference in Spartanburg and set up a State Council of the union. Stressing the drive for the 65-cent minimum wage bill, Walter Truman, the union's State Director, said: "Southern cotton textile workers' pay is not sufficient to provide an American standard of living and profits in the industry do permit the payment of 65 cents an hour minimum without hardship. In 1944, the industry made 65 cents net profit for every wage dollar."

Industry Well Heeled

Industry has a cash backlog, which could be used to increase wages without changing prices, of 23 billion dollars, or about seven years net income, reports the CIO Cost of Living Committee. "If the average wage earner were as well provided, each wage earner would have in his reconversion kitty $18,000—$7,200 in earnings, $1,200 sent to him by the Treasury as his excess profits tax refund, and $9,600 to draw upon in case he were operating at a loss."

The Southern PATRIOT

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THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE

CLARK FOREMAN
President

JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI
Executive Secretary and Editor

FILE BUT DON'T FORGET

Some "representatives" of the South in Congress, whose abandonment of the program the people voted for in 1944 should be remembered by their constituents when they come up for reelection:

SEN. EASTLAND OF MISSISSIPPI is taking the lead in a new drive for a "soft peace" for Germany. "There can be no permanent European recovery without German recovery," says Eastland, and he says of Allied occupation policy in Germany, "Not since the days of Nero have Christians been treated so cruelly." Calling the Red Army "savage, barbarian Mongolian hordes stalking the streets of western civilization as its conquerors," Eastland demands as a bulwark against Russia a strong Germany, which "has served both as neutralizing agent and as a barrier between the oriental hordes and a western civilization 2,000 years old."

SEN. BAILEY OF NORTH CAROLINA is a leading light in opposition to the opening up of Palestine as a refuge for millions of European Jews left homeless by the Nazis.

SEN. McKELLAR OF TENNESSEE, veteran foe of TVA, acting as president pro tem of the Senate, refused to let an unfavorable committee report on the bill to create a Missouri Valley Authority be delayed until committee members favoring the bill could file a minority report. Sen. Murray, author of the MVA Bill, pleaded in vain that the Senate be allowed to hear both sides of the question.

SEN. ELLENDER OF LOUISIANA, who is leading the fight against raising the minimum wage from 40 to 65 cents, was challenged by the Textile Workers Union, CIO, to insert in the Congressional Record an acknowledgement that 4,000 of his constituents had signed a petition favoring the Pepper 65-cent bill. The last we heard, the Senator hadn't even answered the union's letter.

SEN. GEORGE OF GEORGIA, who didn't object to reducing corporation taxes by billions of dollars, was alarmed at a proposal that families earning less than $500 per year per person should pay no income tax. Senator George thought that "inflationary".

SEN. STEWART OF TENNESSEE was unimpressed with an OPA plan to avoid speculative buying and reselling of homes, which would run their prices up. Said Stewart: "A lot of us are too much excited by inflation. I'd like to see some of it now and then. It might be stimulating."

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune to Speak In 9 Southeastern Cities

In January Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, noted educator, lecturer and world traveler, will speak in 9 cities in 5 Southern states in a whirlwind 10-day tour sponsored by the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

The tour will start in Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 17 and end in Greensboro, N. C., Jan. 27. Other cities in the itinerary include Birmingham and Mobile, Ala., Jan. 18, 20; Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 21; Savannah and Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 22, 23; Greensboro, Durham, and Winston-Salem, N. C., Jan. 24, 25 and 27.

Born in Maysville, S. C., of slave parents, the 15th child of 17 children, Mrs. Bethune started life under most unfavorable conditions of poverty, ignorance and prejudice; yet she became one of the great women of the world with a record of achievement and service to mankind rarely equalled.

For 10 years Mrs. Bethune was Director of the Office of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration.

With an initial fund of one dollar and fifty cents, Mrs. Bethune started Bethune-Cookman College at Daytona Beach, Fla., now a 4-year college with an endowment fund of $1,000,000 and an alumni group of thousands of trained, loyal and industrious citizens. Mrs. Bethune is president of the National Council of Negro Women; president of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History; vice-president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; vice-president of the Urban League; and served as associate consultant to the American delegation to the World Security Conference at San Francisco.

Mrs. Bethune is a member of the Executive Board of the SCHW and is one of 4 Southerners to receive the Southern Conference Thomas Jefferson Award.

REP. RANKIN OF MISSISSIPPI, questioned by Rep. Celler of New York on why the House Un-American Committee, which he unofficially runs, didn't investigate Gerald L. K. Smith, the Knights of the White Camelia, the Protestant War Veterans, and other fascist outfits, replied by calling Rep. Celler a Jew.

Bad as these items are, the worst indictment of the Southern delegation in Washington is the way the Southerners are taking the lead in strangling the people's legislative program, paving the way for another depression.

A stark warning of the consequences of this policy was contained in Secretary of Commerce Wallace's testimony before a House appropriations subcommittee. Based on the present wage and price levels, Wallace estimated that net profits of business after taxes would be about twice as great during the next five years as before the war, but that incomes of farmers, wage earners and white collar groups would be 28 billion dollars a year lower. The resulting failure of purchasing power would bring on a depression about 1950, Wallace said.

Note to Carter Monasco and other Congressmen who protest that the people's program for higher purchasing power to avert depression would cost too much:

The Senate Committee on Banking and Currency estimates that the depression which began in 1929 cost the American people 523 billion dollars.

THE BRIGHTER SIDE

There are also some Southerners in Congress who are doing positive and constructive work for the people:

SEN. PEPPER OF FLORIDA, who is rapidly emerging as the Southern people's most consistent spokesman, is chairman of the steering committee for the anti-poll tax law and author of the 65-cent minimum wage bill.

SEN. HILL OF ALABAMA is the author of a bill for federal aid to education.

SEN. FULBRIGHT OF ARKANSAS and REP. FOLGER OF NORTH CAROLINA are serving the cause of peace by combatting the mistrust of our recent allies being sown in some quarters and favoring "Big Three" unity.

REP. PATMAN OF TEXAS is making a stand for control of housing prices.

There are others who might be mentioned, but they are all too few and stand out as exceptions against the general reactionary trend.

A demonstration of the sort of thing that will make Southern Congressmen more responsive to their constituents is being given by the PAC of Lincoln Local 230, Textile Workers Union of America, CIO, in Huntsville, Ala. This committee is conducting a drive to get workers who have been disfranchised by Alabama's cumulative poll tax paid up and back on the voters list. 379 citizens have paid $3,744 in back poll taxes through the committee to be restored to their rightful share in democracy.